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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,893	10/04/2000	ATSUSHI KAKIMOTO	35.C14845	7041

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/678,893

Applicant(s)

KAKIMOTO, ATSUSHI

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goshey et al (hereinafter, "Goshey", 6473,783) in view of Namikata et al (hereinafter, "Namikata", 5,996,003).

As per claims 1, 9 and 17, Goshey discloses an information processing apparatus for use in a network system provided with plural information processing apparatus to which connected is a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other apparatus through the network, the apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing the information of a shared device present in said network system (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 4, lines 39-57, col. 6, lines 57-67 and col. 7, lines 1-60);
- reception means for receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47); and

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- transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own apparatus to apparatus on said network system (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47).

However, Goshey does not explicitly disclose:

- renewal means for renewing the information of the shared device in said management means, based on the information received by said reception means.

Namikata discloses a method for managing documents and information concerning participants within a conference including:

- renewal means for renewing the information of the shared device in said management means, based on the information received by said reception means (col. 18, lines 24-33).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Goshey and Namikata to include a renewal process in order to display Ids based on information that has been erased.

As per claims **2**, **10** and **18**, Goshey discloses

- wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group (col. 2, lines 41-65 and col. 10, lines 39-67).

As per claims **3**, **11** and **19**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to said network system and receiving the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

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As per claims 4, 12 and 20, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in said network system (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims 5, 13 and 21, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said transmission means is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said change (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47).

As per claims 6, 14 and 22, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said transmission means is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims 7, 15 and 23, Goshey discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Goshey does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

Namikata discloses a method for managing documents and information concerning participants within a conference including:

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- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Goshey and Namikata to include a renewal process in order to display Ids based on information that has been erased.

As per claims 8, 16 and 24, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said transmission means is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus to another information processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said network system (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,327,613 to Goshey et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,911,044 to Lo et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,832,298 to Sanchez et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,720,013 to Uda et al

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 703-305-7494.

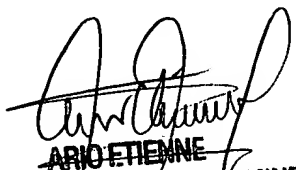
The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

LaShonda T. Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
October 30, 2003


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100